



— State of —  
**North Dakota**  
*Office of the Governor*  
John Hoeven  
*Governor*

**PROCLAMATION**  
**TAKE A LOVED ONE TO THE DOCTOR DAY**  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2003

**WHEREAS**, in the United States there exists a serious health gap between racial and ethnic minority populations and the general public; and

**WHEREAS**, African Americans, American Indians and Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders suffer from serious disparities in health status and outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, heart disease and stroke, cancer, diabetes, infant mortality and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, HIV/AIDS and lack of immunizations against disease are major causes of the health disparities; and

**WHEREAS**, prevention, early detection of disease, and prompt referral to quality health care are essential steps to reducing these and other health disparities; and

**WHEREAS**, the efforts of local communities working together with partners and volunteers to improve the health status of all Americans have proven to be essential to promoting healthy behavior; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Health and Human Services has engaged in a national "Closing The Health Gap" campaign aimed at encouraging individuals to live healthier lives and to visit a health care professional; and

**NOW THEREFORE**, as the Governor of the State of North Dakota, I proclaim September 16, 2003, as **TAKE A LOVED ONE TO THE DOCTOR DAY** in the state of North Dakota.

/s/  
John Hoeven  
Governor

ATTEST:

/s/  
Alvin A. Jaeger  
Secretary of State